

# Oxfordshire Guardian

City edition

Thursday, December 21 - Wednesday, December 27, 2017

[www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk](http://www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk)



New hotel planned for Wantage - p5



Out & About

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**What is tinnitus?**

It is any sound that a person can hear from within their body rather than from an outside source. Although tinnitus is often described as a ringing sound it can be heard in many ways such as buzzing, humming, grating or hissing.

**What are the causes of tinnitus?**

A build-up of earwax, a middle ear infection or a problem with your inner ear can sometimes be responsible. Also a sudden very loud noise or a sustained loud noise may cause a tinnitus attack like loud music or loud industrial work places. Tinnitus is also often associated with a reduction in hearing ability.

**What is the treatment of tinnitus?**

At the moment there is no single treatment for tinnitus that works for everyone. If an underlying cause can be found such as a build-up of earwax then micro-suction earwax removal may be the answer if a specific cause cannot be found then the focus will be on helping the sufferer to manage the condition. There are various ways to do this and one could be to wear custom made instruments that can be used to play tones which cancel or mask the tinnitus sound.

Keith Donaghy is a qualified tinnitus expert and can help people who suffer from this debilitating and sometimes depressing condition to find the best way forward. If you would like some help or advice then make an appointment for a free consultation, what have you got to lose?

# Tinnitus

## What is it and how can I get help?

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The narrow collimator what some Audiologists have suspected for some time that hearing aids are not only good for correcting hearing loss but in fact contributes to better and more active lives, better quality of life and overall well-being.

For the hearing-impaired workers who wear a hearing aid it is reported that these hearing aids are useful for these jobs and that the hearing aids also increase the chances of these getting promoted, being in the right job and getting more money compared to those hearing impaired people who do not utilize hearing aids.

The survey also found that buyers expect to wait an extra week to

4. missed or harassed because they don't wear a hearing aid compared to those that do.

The full version can be found at <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ijerph1822113> – volume 18, issue 22.

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## **Should I have my hearing checked?**

Keith Donaghy R.H.A.D., F.S.H.A.A has the answers.

What should I know my insurance covers?

just like eyes and teeth, it is recommended that hearing aids be fitted every year or certainly if someone thinks that their hearing is deteriorating. All hearing aids are covered by the same 10% discount.

第二步：在“我的电脑”或“我的文档”中右击，选择“新建”→“文件夹”，输入新文件夹的名称。

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If you have a significant loss in your hearing then a new digital hearing system will bring your hearing back to as near normal as possible. There are many digital systems available on the market and generally speaking the more expensive the better.

*Mus musculus* Bannister, 1911, *transl.*

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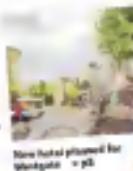
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Free

*Wishing all our readers and advertisers a merry Christmas*

## Footfall up as shoppers give city centre a seasonal boost

By Samantha McGregor

OXFORD has seen an increase of tens of thousands of visitors giving businesses much-needed Christmas boost.

Last night figures from Government statisticians showed the number of people coming into Oxford's city centre was up by 11 per cent compared to the same period last year, which includes the multi-million makeover in Cornmarket, Queen Street and Cheapside as well as the big revamp.

Oxford City Council's economic health in the centre and surrounding shopping areas have helped push figures up.

Central officer Rob Price said the increased footfall is down to the opening of the Westgate stores and the popular Christmas lights switch-on street party, held at the back of the shopping destination.

He said: "The extra space created by businesses moving to Westgate are filling up fast and draw more customers and footfall. It seems that more people will be visiting for longer.

"Overall the council said demand for the year-to-date is up by 4.1 per cent on the previous year."

Cllr Price said: "As expected, the opening of the Westgate centre has given a massive boost to the number of people coming into the city and the



measuring data shows clearly that that increase has been felt widely across the city centre as the run up to Christmas.

"The formal Oxford Christmas Market has been very popular again."

Cllr Price said the empty shops in the city centre are down by about six per cent, compared with the current UK average of 11 per cent.

He said: "The empty space created by businesses moving to Westgate are filling up fast and draw more customers and footfall. It seems that more people will be visiting for longer.

"Overall the council said demand for the year-to-date is up by 4.1 per cent on the previous year."

Footfall statistics are in Queen Street, Cornmarket and St George's Place, with Cornmarket the busiest location.



### Stars' sparkling gesture for children

OFCI hockey players took some time off their risk to charity bags to help tidy before the deadline at Christmas in time for Christmas.

Darland City Stars held their

annual As the Bear Solidarity Appeal this month - collecting £1000 to help fund festive carols. The ice rink.

Thanks to kind generosity,

it's now a record £10k. Back to the stars this month - collecting £1000 to help fund festive carols. The ice rink.

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# Winter driving reminder after spate of crashes

By George Welch

THE county's fire service has issued the importance of driving carefully in winter conditions after an increase in the number of crashes.

Drivers were warned yesterday that the fire service in Oxfordshire faces more calls in winter than any other time of year, according to a spokesman.

An elderly man suffered serious injuries and a woman was cut loose from her car after a two-vehicle crash in East Blenheim near the new housing development. Both drivers of the vehicles involved were unharmed.

This caused the woman by removing the driver's role and most of the car.

The car stalled shortly after it stopped on the A41.

This was followed by a heavy frost, but the emergency services on a dip in which a car plunged into a lorry on a roundabout in a village, trapping the two drivers and causing a multi-car crash, that time near Shillingford.

Perhaps the flattest escape

possible was when a driver and passenger escaped the mangled wreckage of

their car after another who passed by on the A40 rear Oxford.

Firefighters said the people involved were fortunate not to sustain serious injuries following the crash, which happened shortly before 11.30pm.

Incident commander from ranger Linker Michael said: "There could well have been a life-threatening collision had traffic continued."

A driver managed to escape the wreckage of their car without the aid of emergency services at a similar time after driving it off the road and flipping onto its roof.

Thomas Valley Police are still investigating the cause of the crash, which happened at 11.30pm on Friday.

At about 1.30am yesterday, a driver reported a collision between her car after colliding with another vehicle on the A405 near Shillingford.

First-responders used hydraulic rescue equipment to remove the roof and dislodge the car to enable the casualty to be removed.

Watch Manager Jon Walker added: "We can only pray you are safe and sound and on the road to recovery. Please do not drink and drive, that will cause a distraction and drive to the limit and weather conditions."

For winter driving tips, visit [bit.ly/1hL8eJn](http://bit.ly/1hL8eJn)



Woman rescued from car in Shillingford



The driver and passenger escaped this mangled wreckage on the A40

## Primary schools climb up tables

THREE COUNCILS, pupils independent of Oxfordshire are reforming after the county topped up the national primary school league table.

Across the county 40 percent of pupils achieved the government's latest headline attainment target from 1998.

That compares with 38 per cent for education first and just above the average of four in five pupils who met like reported standard in reading, writing and maths in the latest national test.

The Education © of the Primary School at Chalgrove had the highest per cent of its pupils meeting the headline target in 2010.

A handful of schools recorded an impressive 96 per cent, including Kirtlington (90 per cent), Goring (90), Shiplake (90)

and, Biddulph (89) and Longfield (88).

But results varied widely - Longwittenham CS recorded 11 per cent, while Stephen Freeman Community (Oxford) and Deanehead, Woodstock, were 10.6 and 10.5 respectively.

In another boost for the county, schools achieved nine per cent of pupils non-reforming in a higher or earliest stage of the national average.

However, data for Gloucestershire shows that - among primary schools - the county's average for writing and maths

was 60.6, while Gloucestershire's 59.6. Schools are now being given priority without being prepared for the rigours of secondary school by future success in their education.

## Bus driver admits hitting a pedestrian

A WALKINGFORD bus driver has admitted dangerous driving after he double-decker rammed into a car and caused two people to be seriously injured.

Chadlin Daniels, 39, of 165 St John's Road, in walkingford, appeared at Reading Magistrates Court on Thursday last week. He told the court he put his foot on the accelerator instead of the brake before losing control

of the vehicle and crashing into the car. Daniels admitted the offence and was told that he is still off work nearly six months on.

The court heard a number of

passenger who were interviewed after the crash had claimed that Daniels was driving too fast.

Assistant Det Supt Steven Doherty, said: "This could easily have proved fatal to the victim."

District Judge Christopher Lockett declared the defendant was serving to his death with an indefinite custodial sentence and informed Daniels to be remanded into custody at a later date.

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## Festive market is firm favourite scooping public award

THE sound of cheery singing carols, colourful decorations, brightening winter stalls and festive scenes of walled winter markets still ring in the memory – the Oxford Christmas Market has spread its festive magic across the city centre again.

More than 50 traders converged on Broad Street as the city centre in play during winter, fewer than 22 days from December 1 to 17.

As well as a network of organisations, including Oxfordshire members of the anti-poverty Christian Aid, the annual festive fayre has been voted as Didcot's December event of the year at a Chiltern awards.

Rosie, organiser Nicole Barnes, said she was "over the moon" that the Christmas market was rated favourite by the public.

She said: "The award makes all

the hard work of the past eight years worthwhile. It's wonderful to see how many people look forward to it and return to it this year, too much fun to be had."

One benefit the city council's local member for culture and communities added: "An wonderful time that the Oxford Christmas Market has been made the festive event for the public."

"Everyone goes along and is impressed by the stallholders. It is a wonderful way to get into the festive spirit."

The Oxford Awards at Broad Street were selected by the public and readers of Living Oxford Magazine.

The awards celebrate Oxfordshire's most beloved establishments, and the categories covered included dining, nightlife, shopping, and theatre.



Shoppers have voted the market in Broad Street as their favourite event

## Plan to have 'shark house' listed

By Eva Asturiano

A three-storey shark-crushing head-first into the roof of a three-bedroom house could become subject to special status as a 'protected heritage asset'.

The quirky shark house, which has attracted to its veranda New Street in Worcester, could be listed as a protected heritage asset.

Its new owners, the entrepreneur Bill Horne, communicated the sculpture more than 20 years ago.

He was an up-and-coming Defence City Councilor who lived in Worcester down on grounds of safety and on the ground that it had not green planning

permissions for the shark.

'Selling us back doors,' Mr Horne appealed to the then Secretary of State for Environment Michael Meacher who came out in favour of the shark in 1986.

The three-glass shark, created by sculptor John Daedaly, was created to protect a guest in the service building of Alby's, and was installed on the last floor of the house after dropping off the sculpture to Regent's Park.

An application for it to be listed on the Oxford Heritage Assets Register will now go to the city council for consideration, with a reference reported by coastal heritage officers at the museum.

Broadstreet councillor Ruth Willmott, who is managing the bid for the building's classification, said: "We were all shocked that such a unique landmark had no protection or planning terms."

A group has formed to fight it. "I think as soon as possible. We also want to complete an application to Historic England to have the shark listed as a Grade II listing. Apparently there is already a listing for Grey Gables, so why not the Headington Shark?"

Mr Horne, 77, now lives in Worcester. The radio presenter owned the house and 100% when son Magnus Horne, 30, became involved in buying it in January 2010.

"I couldn't allow that to happen."

Meanwhile, Mr Horne was diagnosed with leukemia and died by doctors he had 11 months to live.

## InBrief

### Woman's bag stolen

A WOMAN was dragged to the ground as a man in a mask made off with her bag.

The woman was walking from Carrow Road to the High Street Way at about 10pm on December 11 when she was approached from behind by a man who grabbed her bag. Instantly fearing her life was in danger, she then ran off at the direction of Carrow Road.

The police have appealed for help to identify the suspect.

If you can help, call 101.

## Christmas lunch

THE EAST Oxford Community Association is hosting a Christmas lunch from midday to 2pm on Christmas Day.

The event at Priory Street is open to families, people on benefits, the homeless and anyone who would like to come along.

The meal is free but donations are welcome. To book a place and for more details, visit [eastoxfordca.org.uk](http://eastoxfordca.org.uk) or [facebook.com/eastoxfordca](http://facebook.com/eastoxfordca).

## Walk off excess

WALK off excess after over-eating this Christmas and join Oxford Prisoners' Trust as it invites walkers to try out routes across Oxford and its surroundings.

They hope participants will be able to "encourage people after all the Christmas indulgence".

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## Leather goods firm's tonne of Christmas gifts



Furniture and gift store chain John Lewis has joined forces with the charity Action for Children to give away a tonne of Christmas presents to families in need.

The company will be dropping off its leather goods through Heathrow over the Christmas period. Founder Jennifer Batten said: "As our products often last longer than we can make it, we have to bring it in at the right time, not too bright, and as the season goes on, all the presents that we've given out are still in great condition for us to export."

Saleens and denim designer jeans are among the record volumes of Christmas ranges exported to dip into Heathrow to the rest of the world over the festive season.



Santa will be dropping by at the King's Centre in Chiswick to help with his transport

## Minibus needed to aid food bank Christmas meal

**CHISWICK**-Families Bank is at full capacity for volunteers of its Christmas Day lunch on Dec 24. It needs a minibus to take people to and from the event.

The charity would like to hear from anyone who can lend a hand with the cost of a 16-seater minibus.

Following the success of last

year's event - the third annual free cooking session - there's space for 300 on its beds for underprivileged children and families.

From December 20 until April 20, the King's Centre, Chiswick, on Christmas Day.

The community organisation is always looking for volunteers to help cook and serve the meal.

Those interested in helping can email [info@familiesbank.org](mailto:info@familiesbank.org) or visit [www.familiesbank.org](http://www.familiesbank.org) for more information.

# Hotel given approval amid concerns over safety at LGBTQ pub

By Owen Hughes

MEMBERS of Oxford's LGBTQ community have told their council they should allow a new development with the opening of a new gay hotel next to the Westgate shopping centre.

A number of objections to the planning bid have been made by residents of nearby Tewkesbury Lodge and Puritan Square over concerns about noise pollution, the height of the building, the reduction of public open space, the hotel's close proximity to a green public space.

But one resident was particularly concerned that the three-floor, six-storey Puritan would dramatically affect the LGBTQ character of the area.

Should it open, a former member of the local gay-friendly social club the Jolly Farmers objected to the plans for the hotel because he was "concerned that the local pub will no longer be a safe space for LGBTQ people".

He said: "I had a close



pub in mind filled with straightforward customers which undercuts the character of the area," he said.

"An eye witness of one LGBTQ people in a square makes a difference to people's perception of the area," he added.

However, Oxford Pride has welcomed the redevelopment of the city centre, which they say is "long over due" in a city that is still struggling to recover.

Peter Morris, a former member of Oxford Pride and "Without Doubt" campaigner, believes the project offers opportunities for employment and resilience for the entire community.

The Jolly Farmers is the only

remaining LGBTQ+ pub which still means an important focus for the local LGBTQ+ community but others are very welcome of the area, he said.

The principal of a Puritan bid opening next door to the pub, he added: "There is already a diverse localised mix in the area which has been welcomed."

"Local businesses are frequently visited great LGBTQ+ experiences."

The older block opposite the Rosiggate, formerly occupied by a supermarket from Dixons, will be demolished, and the car-free development, offering 10 rooms and a ground floor restaurant, will be built in its place.

## InBrief

### Bag snatch bid

A CCTV image has been released after a woman was snatched from the group when a thief invaded her handbag in Kent earlier.

The victim was getting off the number 1 bus on October 4, at about 11.15pm at the junction of Cowley Road and Old Melton Road.

When she was waiting using the mobile phone, a man in a dark coat and hooded jacket snatched the bag from her shoulder in quick succession.

The woman injured her head when she was pulled away before she sat in her bag.

Police have released an image of a man they believe to be the thief who snatched the bag, and may be able to help with their investigation.

Contact police on 100 quoting reference 48000000 if you know the area or have any information.

### Bin collection days

BIN collections days in Oxford will be a day later during Christmas week.

With many households now having two bins, the council has introduced a second collection day.

Normal collections will resume on January 1.

Garbage waste collections will continue and bin deliveries will be suspended from December 23 to January 1 unless there is a break

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## Driver's lucky escape after rail bridge crash

A DRIVER had a lucky escape after his car crashed onto railway tracks and landed upside down. It is believed the car "tunneled off the road" and drove up under the bridge, landing on its roof. The incident at Chipping Norton Station on Thursday last week.

The driver was uninjured and lucky to have survived.

No passenger trains were running last Friday at the Chipping Norton station, but works trains were operating at the time in connection with the Princes Risborough extension.

Danny Woodward, chairman

of the line said: "Our Chipping Norton Ridgeway Line train arrived on site very quickly – the guys are all either ex-police or related career railway workers – and they immediately got on station, what needed to happen."

"The driver of East & West were informed and we have had the maximum co-operation of the emergency services and Oxfordshire County Council Highways department," he said. "The vehicle didn't set us off the way and repairs were made to the track and signalling equipment."



## Increase in number of sexual abuse calls

By Dan Attwells

A CHILDREN'S charity has revealed there has been an increase in the amount of people coming in touch over concerns about child sexual abuse.

NAPCC figures showed that over the last two years its helpline received 41 calls and emails to handle cases of child abuse.

There were also a further 70 contacts where people called for advice about sexual abuse against children.

Similarly, the charity says it has seen an increase in the proportion of callers who feel pressurised to take part in sexual activities, which

amounting to one in 10 children having experienced sexual abuse.

One caller who phoned the NAPCC helpline said: "I am a single mother and my eight-year-old might be at risk of sexual abuse by men who visit the house on weekends. There is lots of drinking that goes on and some abusers think the children need to bring them with them. There are lots of secret places where alcohol is stored and I'm worried about what's going on."

Similarly, the charity says it has seen an increase in the proportion of callers who feel pressurised to take part in sexual activities, which

amounting to physical contact and can happen online.

Now, the charity is calling for a UK government commissioned nationwide study on child sexual abuse, so that we can understand the true scale of the problem.

John Cavanagh, head of helplines at the NAPCC, said: "It is deeply concerning that so many children are put at risk by being exposed to such a distressing experience but at the same time it also suggests that the majority of adults are much more aware of the risks and much more willing to speak about and share our concerns."

## Off-duty PC due in court after assault on woman

A POLICE officer is due in court tomorrow to answer charges of causing grievous bodily harm with intent after an incident in the summer.

Det-Sgt Alison Bennett, 38, of Wood End, Banbury, was given a postal

requirement to appear at Banbury Magistrates' Court on January 11.

The charge is assault on a constable or 16-year-old woman at Ashton Road, Banbury, on the evening of June 18.

PC Bennett, who was off duty at the time of the incident, is named in a mask and is currently unrepresented by a solicitor while criminal proceedings are ongoing.

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## Fake cigarettes on sale in pubs

PERMIT HOLDERS who sell fake cigarettes in their pub or restaurant could face fines and legal action under new laws.

Recent legislation and County Council trading standards teams warn that cheap illegal tobacco can be attractive to young people, helping children to start smoking, bring communities into conflict with organised criminals and undermine legitimate trade.

Cllr Judith Headland, enforcement manager for the county's trading standards team, said: "Actions involved in the sale of illegal tobacco commits a criminal offence which could result in a hefty fine and lengthy prison sentences."

## Breeders warning

PROFILE planning to add a mate puppy to its family should be aware of dishonest pet breeders and smugglers.

Derbyshire County Council's trading standards team is warning members to do their homework and check that their chosen dog breeder has a good pedigree record before they purchase a puppy, which may have been imported illegally from the UK or are inbreed.

For more information, visit [tinyurl.com/cyqfphk](http://tinyurl.com/cyqfphk).

# Incinerator burns its one millionth tonne

By Samantha McGregor

A CONTROVERSIAL biomass incinerator has reached a milestone - it has burned one million tonnes of refuse.

The waste plant at Ashley near Matlock opened in 2011, and since then the equivalent of one Olympic swimming pool worth of waste has been processed.

Wärtsilä, which operates the site, says the waste has been converted into enough energy to power 30,000 homes.

Stakeholders say the plant has already won over local opposition and the owner ended up in a public enquiry over the High Court.

Concerns were raised at the time of opening that the plant would burn normal, or kitchen, waste brought in by local firms across Derbyshire.

Now three years on the incinerator deals with 10 per cent Derbyshire's waste.

Derbyshire County Council's refuse manager for environmental services, Yvonne Costain, said: "I am delighted to see the Ashley plant successfully producing such an outcome."

The service that Derbyshire provides is currently wide, producing the numbers of householders who evaluate



From left, Ashley ERF operations manager Jim Thompson, Wärtsilä regional contracts manager Paul Rawlinson, Derbyshire County Council cabinet member for environment, transport and climate change Chris Jones, Derbyshire County Council strategic manager (waste and transport) Andrew Price

the service as the most recyclable and reliable in the area.

"It has been a challenge to encourage local waste to Wärtsilä to incinerate even further the environmental benefits the ERF brings particularly energy generation."

Wärtsilä's managing director of major contracts, Chris Jones, with Wärtsilä and Derbyshire County Council chief executive officer, Paul Rawlinson, and Derbyshire County Council cabinet member for environment, transport and climate change, Andrew Price.

"We are transforming the way we recycle and generate energy and supporting waste that will not find a home in landfill."

"Wärtsilä is a 16-year contract to run the facility on behalf of the county council."

The council will now increase the cost of household waste disposal to help encourage recycling.

The firm has built an education centre at the site and people can book visits to see the incinerator behind the scenes.

"In that case that was achieved

## InBrief

**Youthquake top word**  
GOOGLE's 'Year in Search' has named 'youthquake' as word of the year after a five-fold increase in usage over the past 12 months.

The term first entered English language in 1968 to describe cultural, political, or social change arising from the actions or influence of young people.

Carrie Symonds, partner of Prime Minister David Cameron, said: "My mother uses our language as reflecting a deepest sense of shared and enhanced values, as a pure political word that means a shared code."

"The youthquake has been 100 times to reflect a year which many of us feel not nearly finished. I think it's time for a new word to reflect the reality of what's happening." Theresa May's campaign has been credited with helping the word's surge, updating an adjective in her son's song update to an election with a young lawmaker, Jeremy Corbyn, a Labour Party from the youth vote.

## Drink drive warning

COFFEEHOUSE coffee service and Thames Valley Police have joined up to launch a campaign urging road users to drink and drive.

The authorities want each single cup could put motorists over the limit and every small amount of alcohol can trigger a range of adverse effects, co-operation and decision-making skills.

Alcohol-related road collisions and deaths in society costs an estimated

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**Victoria Prentis and Layla Moran are among the choir of MPs who sang at Worcesterbar Abbey to highlight the plight of those in Syria.**

## MPs sing for Syrian victims

100 Oxfordshire MPs have now signed a letter of support for the safety of victims of the Syrian conflict. On Tuesday last week Oxford West & Abingdon MP Layla Moran joined forces with anti-war Oxfordshire MP Victoria Prentis for the first singing for Syrians event and helped issue

by Alexander Armstrong:

Mrs Prentis said: "Bringing together a simple yet effective way to raise money for those most in need in Syria, is a really important chance that's also a unique party - a chance that we can all work together to help some of the most vulnerable people."

"They all came spontaneously and chose what they thought the plight of the Syrian people has been like."

Mrs Moran added: "It was a privilege to sing at this choir at such a poignant event."

"At my youth I went to Worcesterbar when my family lived there.

"My father was a soldier so it's always where I have been influenced by the comfort and when Victoria told me about the event I jumped at the chance to do my bit."

The first East Midlands passed the day after the event at which there were readings from actors including Sammi Whit, Allie Christie and Martin Jarvis as well as performances of Winter Wonderland

For the first time Mrs Moran passed the day after the event at which there were readings from actors including Sammi Whit, Allie Christie and Martin Jarvis as well as performances of Winter Wonderland

# Sacks of love as presents given to sick children

## Sleigh2Give delivers to hospital

By George Welch

It was spread across the floor of wards of sick children, on gurneys, day care rooms, piles like snowmen, a pile of a Christmas present appeal.

110 young patients at Oxford Children's Hospital had their day brightened by Oxford-based giving group Playful2Give's Sleigh2Give campaign.

Gifts included, ranging from toys and books to sets and activity kits.

Books and games were handed out by staff and volunteers at the specialist hospital at the John Radcliffe in Headington.

The founder of our charity of the year, 25-year-old Andy Barber, who became ill and died for the event, said: "I am so grateful that we helped the group's total of £10,000 plus."

Andy's former patient at the hospital said: "Sleigh2Give 2011 has been our most successful and happiest

year - which is absolutely incredible."

"Last year's appeal was phenomenal with a total of 2,000 gifts, amounting £11,000."

"This year we have more money, more supporters, more hours and many more children were referenced, via a massive 10,000+ entries full to the brim to the children's hospital."

"I think it certainly tops last year."

"All boxes in the final few days we could hardly move in the hall or the office, as we take off the boxes," he added.

The group visited three of its wards, including the cancer (Oncology) ward, the paediatric (Hollinshead) (Neurology) ward and the teenage (Teenage) Ward.

Playful2Give particularly targeted arts and crafts, as well as books, to engage the mind and feed the imagination.

Andy said: "Sleigh2Give, like Playful2Give, just keeps growing year on year - and thus partici-



Picture: Phil Gouldard

campain at this time of year put people a little bit more to dig deep and donate to preserve."

A group of women, including Sophie and her mother, added: "It's important to support, especially appeal sponsors Go-Grocery Foods which also offers transportation to the hospital."

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The local Handicrafters did one of 50 years for the children's hospital.

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Some of the gifts before being delivered to the wards  
Picture: Brodie Moore



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# £100m pound deal for retail centre approved

COUNCILLORS have backed proposals to build Bicester's Castle Quay shopping centre on a site looking over from Babbington.

The move comes after the central council pulled out of a major regeneration of the site.

Abingdon Standard Investments currently owns 10 percent of the site and Chelwell District Council owns 10 per cent.

Last year the investment firm was given planning permission to build a multi-screen cinema, supermarket, hotel and restaurants along the eastern side of former Specialist Liquor Gates land.

Now the council has stepped in to review the project and says it will cost "in the region" of £100m to build the extension, while the "final bill will be over £100m".

Chelwell will hand the project through to the end when the report from the council is issued.

Costs are due to the unchanged brief work, but the council and the cost of buying the shopping centre would remain "unadjusted at this stage".

Cllr Tony Roff, Chelwell lead member for financial management, said: "This is an historic day for Chelwell and I hope it will be the start of a new era of regeneration for the centre of Bicester, starting with the president and CEO."

"Bicester has been without a town centre supermarket for 10 years and I believe desperately need of a much-needed modern long-term plan."

"With our intervention, we can guarantee that these plans come in from an audience item to support our wider regeneration plan that will bring a diverse town centre the people of Bicester deserve and our local economy needs," he said.

Chelwell said it would review the use of the planned current units and was working with retail experts to review the shopping centre.

If agreed, work can start next summer with completion due in 2020.

To date, The White Company, Loll, Gourmet Burger Kitchen, Nandos, Oasis and Capital have all reaffirmed their commitment to the scheme.

Sean Woodward, Loll owner and director, said: "Bicester is about to grow and we plan to open soon."

"We are well on track for the opening of our new store in Castle Quay next development of Castle Quay Two."

"But we made it plain, this is not a blank cheque. The project has to deliver the revenue as promised, if shops remain empty and become fails in the programme, we will take action and will be forced to redevelop."

Chelwell said it was planning to regenerate Bicester Road, Treasury and Eastgate sites to increase the housing, retail and hospitality offer.

## Joiners craft woodwork award

A FAMILY-run firm has won a prestigious industry award for their unique long woodwork restoration of an Elizabethan house.

The team of carpenters at Gildas Joinery, based in Woodstock, were Woodworking Project of the Year at the British Woodworking Federation awards last week for the restoration of the Dillenburg House.

Gildas Joinery began work on the project in November 2015 and worked alongside specialist craftspeople to create a detailed, decorative garage door and a summer house and a stable block.

The restoration required was the largest conservation project the

company had worked on and had to plan around existing and temporary structures in order to make their work as large enough to complete the work.

Ryan Gildas managing director of Gildas Joinery said: "We work with very kinder merchants who in turn sourced much of the material from France. We're honoured to have won this award. All the team have played part in this wonderful project and we're looking forward to the future."

Gildas Joinery will enter in the project to compete for two prestige awards and a lifetime premium with a decorative internally exposed rail.



The team from Gildas Joinery who picked up the award for woodworking project of the year for their restoration work

# No let up in battles over Brexit

By Ben Ainslie-Douglas

DEFENDERS of a petition to overturn a decision by the House of Commons which the prime minister was defeated over.

In a row last week, 11 Tory rebels backed going Parliament a touch greater if it is leaving the EU.

Put forward by the former attorney general Dominic Grieve, the amendment requires any Brexit deal to be approved by a separate Act of Parliament before it can be implemented.

Oxford West and Abingdon MP Stephen Mosley said: "The forthcoming government defeat is a wake-up call for the Conservative-BTP government. Hundreds of local residents demanded me taking this issue to the public and I am calling on the BTP to support us in securing a deal that will allow people to live just the economy and public services like our NHS for generations to come."

This issue from the 'brex up' will be the Tories' priority next, but also reappears in a resolution drafted between Labour and the Lib Dems over an amendment to the single market.

A motion put forward by the Lib

Dems, which would have prevented ministers from using regulation powers in the Withdrawal Bill to force changes to the UK's continued membership of the single market, was voted down.

Shadow Brexit minister Davididd support the motion, said: "Across all, we have stressed that the government was never in sole control of the single market and that it should have kept all options open. Unfortunately the Lib Dem amendment mentioned would not have done this and that is why we abstained support."

But the Lib Dems criticised Mr

Mosley for refusing to back a crucial amendment.

Opposition Lib Dem spokesman Connor McKeown said: "Amendments like this have already failed to stand up for the job in Oxford East. That they are being brought forward again is deeply concerning."

"Even at a cost of all the people in Oxford East who would lose their homes, they'd limit the damage caused by Brexit."

Mr Mosley said the Lib Dems' amendment would not have kept the UK in the single market as it did not "address any of the many concerns raised under government's Withdrawal Bill."

## Tributes paid to college student

RESCUE College has paid tribute to Nitin Chakraborty, who died after suffering a cardiac arrest while in the back of a car with his friends. He was one of the 12-year-old students who died on November 16, was named last week.

Mr Chakraborty, of Hindhead College in Hindhead, Surrey, honoured the Oxford University student last week.

Principals Paul Draper told this newspaper: "Nitin was a valued member of the College and we deeply regretted his loss. Fellow tie students, his tutor and our college community."

"He is missed by lots of us in the tie."

Officers served Mr Chakraborty of Station Road, Hindhead, following an alleged assault.

Mr Chakraborty was being transported to the police station when he hit an off-duty police officer at Hindhead Park & Ride as a bid to help the arrested man.

He was taken to John Radcliffe Hospital where he died on Friday night as a result of a post mortem examination yet to be finalised and more tests, including toxicology, were to be carried out.

The 12-year-old's family made a statement by the independent Police Complaints Commission.

The full report is due scheduled for September 1 next year.

>> For the latest news go to [www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

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# Concern healthcare can't meet development levels

By Sandra McGregor

A NEW report has highlighted concerns that health and care services are not keeping pace with development at Bicester.

Healthwatch Oxfordshire, the county's independent health and care services watchdog, has highlighted current waiting times or long waiting times for appointments at GP surgeries, and lack of NHS dental

It comes after researchers from Healthwatch spoke to around 600 people during a two-week period in the autumn, at meetings, voluntary groups and other events.

Findings showed they were concerned about the "inadequacy of adequate health and social services and their

ability to access them".

The report also said there is a "worrying perception" among constituents that health and care services available do not meet the needs of the growing population.

Healthwatch has sent a letter to NICE England about the shortage of dentists and has called on Oxfordshire County Council to add adult social care training courses to its budget.

Healthwatch's executive director for Oxfordshire, Pauline Ward, said: "We saw large service providers independently come to report to us a starting point to review a detailed plan for future health and social care provision for Bicester."

"Any plan needs to take fully into account the most up-to-date estimates of the likely national, regional and local projected population growth in the area."

A spokesman for Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group said: "We are fully aware of the challenges we face in trying to ensure there are effective GPs and primary care services across the county in the face of increasing demand and limited resources."

"We are currently engaged with all commissioners on the future of these services, based on the particular needs of the local population."

The spokesman added: "The commissioning board, in association with local partners, has developed a range of measures to review and reduce costs and to improve the service and has called for more money at Bicester Community Hospital."



## Stolen council car smashes into Aldi in robbery bid

A COUNCIL-OWNED car involved in an armed robbery at Chipping Norton.

Officers are appealing for witnesses following the incident on Tuesday last week, after a vehicle was driven into the store in an attempt to steal £10,000.

Officers received a report of the attempted theft at the supermarket

in January. Rutland emerged fit and well. Police abandoned the scene and said a vehicle had been driven into the store, causing damage. A man was seen running away from the scene. He was captured during the incident and nothing was stolen.

The vehicle involved was a West Oxfordshire District Council marked

Land Rover, which was reported stolen from Witney overnight.

Detective Constable Isabelle Lai said: "We are working to identify and locate the suspect(s) involved. If anyone would like to speak to anyone who saw the distinctive vehicle living-still in the area at around the time."

If you can help, call 101.

## InBrief

**Office space** PROFLIX who run theons small business at any self-employed can take advantage of our workspace spaces from early 2018.

A unit at Franklin House Bicester is currently being transformed into a bar-style studio facility for up to 15 people.

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The more information go to [proflix.co.uk](http://proflix.co.uk).

## Midsomer donation

MEET THE TEAM! Team Godwin Thame have raised £114 for the major's charity, Red Kite Family Centre and Thame & District Gym Centre.

Gill Trenerry was presented with a cheque by the tour group.

The group, which includes mostly former fans of October's long-distance handball competition from the popular TV show *Midsomer Murders*, are now known volunteers who are members of Thame Players. This year 200 participants from the UK, Australia, Germany, USA and Germany joined the tour. The tour group will be back again next year in the May 2018 *Midsomer Murders*, which is a Midsomer-themed location and future production of the walking tour.

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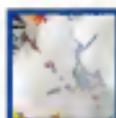
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**InBrief****Clearing up in blitz**

THE British Hill has been given a clean up with 22 tonnes of waste removed from its site.

Sir Christopher Hatton Council workers cleared litter, graffiti and bulky waste as part of the blitz.

Cllr Debbie Pashford, Charnwood's local member for clean and green, said: "Our street cleaning team put in long hours at your request keeping the district clean and tidy. Please remember to always do the same and help us to fulfil the ordinary duties to get our beautiful areas looking sparkly and green."

The environmental head litter will take place from Monday January 13, at Burn Park, Leicester.

**Rescue mission**

A NEW community website, Banbury One Planet Earth, has collected seven bags of litter after just 10 days.

In ten hours, the group covered a three-mile stretch around Coggeshall.

An online collecting place bottles, cans, plastic bottles, packaging and bags, can collect 200kg a year and strip metal. The group has found "loads" of dog poo bags where owners had packed up after their pet and thrown them in the winter or bags.

>> Dot a story? Call the newsdesk on 01235 516199



**YOUNG** anti-poaching campaigners work with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to locate poachers.

Schulichildren from Deddington CofE Primary School have helped with green flag building equipment and a first aid kit to assist with their outdoor activities.

The equipment, donated by David Wilson Homes, will allow the

youngsters to practice and refine in all environments.

Steve Fletcher, community manager at David Wilson Homes, said: "We are delighted to see young people getting involved in outdoor activities and a first aid kit for Deddington CofE Primary School's friend school and hope the children are making good use of these den-building equipment when out in the wild."

and cars."

During forest school sessions, pupils aged five to 16 go into the school grounds unaccompanied for two hours in a Dennington George development in Shrewsbury.

Hedgehog Chase Evans said the scheme has enabled many children to come out of their shell, while enhancing their social, emotional and academic skills.

**Give the gift of blood this Christmas**

PEOPLE in Oxford can help give a valuable gift this festive season by donating blood.

The NHS Blood and Transplant centre in Headington is calling donors to the capital on an opportunity to donate blood on Christmas Day to ensure hospitals can continue to treat patients during a busy period.

According to the centre, many children and adults will need transfusions over the festive period as times increase due to blood conditions or injuries, or due to surgery, children or an accident.

In the meantime, regular donor marketing operations will continue. "Blood levels could run over the busy festive period as Christmas shopping continues and extended public holidays encourage blood donation to continue," says a spokesman.

"We are also keen donors in Oxford raise funds over at the血库.

All blood groups are being asked to make and keep their blood-saving appointments as the run up to and over Christmas. But vulnerable groups such as G-negative, B-negative and A-negative platelets are particularly important.

To book an appointment visit [blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk).

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**Look properly to avoid crashes, motorists told**

By George Welch

FAILING to look properly is the biggest cause of collisions - no surprise as drivers, according to figures from the Department for Transport.

There were 1,648 reported collisions in Gloucestershire in 2011 - the 10th highest figure in England for the year.

A driver failing to look properly contributed to 510 of those collisions, or about a quarter (26%) caused at least one party to motorists failing to judge other drivers properly or speed.

Riskless driving was the fifth most common mistake made by drivers in Gloucestershire in 2011, contributing to 400 collisions across the county, or about 24% of total errors.

Other causes of collisions in Gloucestershire included failing to judge other road users.

"This isn't just for safety reasons, but to avoid drivers becoming involved in collisions and causing unnecessary damage," said Gloucestershire Police.

Highway roads in Gloucestershire had an estimated 1,600,000 journeys made on them every day, according to figures from the AA.

Gloucestershire Police said that for

Maurice Franklin, from the Gloucester Transport (GET) group, has noticed a significant increase in the number of older female pensioners using public transport, has long called for road improvements across the county.

"It's very concerning but there needs to be a recognition because a higher than average number of incidents in Gloucestershire and surrounding areas are a purely female issue," he said.

"GET has always made the case for greater provision of public transport, using an integrated infrastructure, rather than having a share of roads after road users."

"This isn't just for safety reasons, but to avoid drivers becoming involved in collisions and causing unnecessary damage," said Gloucestershire Police.

Highway roads in Gloucestershire had an estimated 1,600,000 journeys made on them every day, according to figures from the AA.

Gloucestershire Police said that for

drivers to look properly considered. Up to 12.

Mr Franklin added that a way to prevent collisions is to encourage cycling and to choose alternative transport modes.

He said: "It's desperately hard to get into people's head if they care about different transport modes."

"This will not only result in more sustainable road traffic management, but will also reduce carbon emissions and defuse future scenarios."

Motorists failing to look properly were the biggest cause of crashes across Great Britain, contributing to a total of 41,119 reported collisions.

The figures for Gloucestershire show that it is one of the local authority areas where figures are available.

It had the highest number of crashes with a total of 4,432.

**Thousands using new River Rapids bus route already**

A NEW bus route covering lower Bredon between Dursley and Stow-on-the-Wold has already welcomed by thousands of passengers.

More than 30 passengers per week have used Thomas Travel's River Rapids service, which passes through Wallingford, once it was launched in November.

The service, which originated in the resort town from Dursley to its later increased the frequency of buses between the two locations from every 60 to 30 minutes. Thomas Travel introduced the service in response to increasing customer levels and an improving economic outlook.

More than 100 passengers (70 female) said "River Rapids" has been warmly received by passengers. Numbers have increased since the first month in operation are very encouraging, with an increase rate of 12.88% people now using the service per week.

These numbers were reflected in distance travelled.



# be hot!

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### New Groups

#### Didcot

Didcot Baptist Church, Wantage Road  
Didcot, OX11 0BS  
Mondays 7.30pm  
Contact Louise 07579410946

#### Didcot

Didcot Baptist Church, Wantage Road  
Didcot, OX11 0BS  
Fridays 9.30am  
Contact Kerry 07583 095780

### Wantage

The Gables, St Mary's Convent  
Wantage, OX12 8LU  
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Contact Nicola 07558528543

#### Didcot

Didcot Baptist Church, Wantage Road  
Didcot, OX11 0BS  
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Contact Louise 07579410946

#### Abringdon

Abringdon Rugby Club, Linlithgow Way  
Abingdon, OX14 5TU  
Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Contact Clares 07580529610

### Cheltenham

Cheltenham Day Centre, Church Road  
Cheltenham, GL50 0PQ  
Tuesdays 7.30pm  
Contact Bev 07985059079

### Grove

The Devon Suite, Old Mill Hall  
Grove, OX19 7LB  
Tuesdays 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Contact Nicki 07985295648

#### Dinton Barracks

Dinton Barracks Community Centre,  
Chelwood Road, Abingdon OX13 6HA  
Tuesdays 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Contact Kev 07560 082 984

#### Ditton

Ditton Park Hall, Ditton Road  
Ditton, OX11 7JN  
Tuesdays 9.30am, 11.30am, 5pm & 7pm  
Contact Ceri 07768132541

### Wednesday

#### Faringdon

Faringdon United Church, Cowell Street  
Faringdon, SN7 7JA  
Wednesdays 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Contact Louise 07764633940

#### Stevenstone

Stevenstone Village Hall, The Green  
Stevenstone, OX13 8PR  
Wednesdays 8.30am, 8.30pm & 7.30pm  
Contact Avonelle 07764633940

#### Abringdon

Milley Park, Dunmore Road  
Abingdon, OX14 1PU  
Wednesdays 7.30pm  
Contact Michelle 07883 848970

#### Wallingford

Cottage 79, Kneepot,  
Wallingford, OX8 6DT  
Wednesdays 10.00 am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm &  
7.30pm  
Contact Amy 07514665703

### Thursday

#### Stanford in the Vale

CE Primary School, High Street  
Stanford in the Vale, SN7 6LH  
Thursdays 7.30pm  
Contact Nancy 07710177606

#### Abringdon

Long Furlong Community Centre, Boulter Drive  
Abingdon, OX14 3DP  
Thursdays 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.15 pm, 5.30 pm &  
7.00 pm  
Contact Kev 07560 082954

#### Didcot

Didcot Cine Hall, Brinsford Road  
Didcot, OX11 7JN  
Thursdays 3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm  
Contact Clare 07580202942

#### Faringdon

Faringdon United Church, Cowell Street,  
Faringdon, SN7 7JA  
Thursdays 8.30am  
Contact Louise 07717661699

### Friday

#### Didcot

Didcot Baptist Church, Wantage Road  
Didcot, OX11 0BS  
Saturdays 7.00am, 9.00am & 11.00am (new time)  
Contact Kerry 07583 065760

#### Abringdon

Preston Road Community Centre, Midget Close  
Abingdon, OX14 5NP  
Saturdays 8.00am & 10.00am  
Contact Amy 07860250079

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# Christmas Parties at The Volunteer Inn

## \* Christmas Menu

### On Arrival

Mulled wine Or Buck Fizz

### Starters

Roast pumpkin and charred onion salad (V)(GF)

Beetroot cured salmon, horseradish cream & toast.

Duck livers on brioche toast with shallot and whisky cream sauce

Festive parsnip soup with crusty bread (V)(GF)

Sweet potato, brie and spinach tart with cranberry and mixed salad (V)

### Mains

Roast turkey with chipolata & bacon, sage & apricot stuffing, mashed potatoes & seasonal vegetables (GF)

Veggie wellington roast red pepper, butternut squash, feta cheese, cheese wrapped in puff pastry, dauphinoise potatoes, spicy tomato sauce (V)

Roast cod, cremini chicory, sprouting broccoli, caper & parsley butter (GF)

Smoked duck breast salad served with mushroom dressing & madeira and balsamic vinegar reduction and pickled mushrooms, spinach and crozets (GF)

Festive beef burger topped with a pulled pork & cooked black pepper, streaky bacon and melted brie, with fries, cranberry & BBQ ketchup and onion slaw (GF)

### Desserts

Christmas pudding served with crème anglaise

Salted caramel cheesecake with fudge

Chocolate Mousse tart with Vodka Marinated Cherries

Poach mulled wine pear with Christmas pudding ice cream and honeycomb and chocolate truffle (GF)

Warm Sticky Toffee pudding with vanilla ice cream (GF)

A complementary glass of either Mulled Wine or Buck Fizz on arrival.

**2 Course £15.95**

or

**3 Course £19.95**

(Minimum of four people)

### Terms and Conditions

All menu choices must be pre-ordered a minimum of 10 working days in advance. For the set menu, each course choice must be accompanied by the guest name.

The deposit required is £5 per head for the set menu.

**Opening Times:** The Volunteer is open Monday-Saturday 10am to 11pm Food times are Monday-Saturday 12pm to 9pm

The Volunteer Inn

Station Road, Grove, Oxfordshire, OX12 0DH

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[www.thevolunteergrove.co.uk](http://www.thevolunteergrove.co.uk)

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# Out & About

*From tragedy  
comes a true  
triumph*

War Horse review –  
don't miss chance to see  
First World War drama

join Michael Bolton for an intimate evening of music



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# Bolton comes to Oxford

Join Michael for an intimate evening of music

By Samantha McGregor

**TICKET** Michael Bolton goes on sale for leg-endary singer Michael Bolton as he brings his UK tour to Oxford.

The 48-year-old singing legend will take to the New Theatre stage on February 9.

Michael, also an songwriter and record producer, has sold more than 65 million records worldwide and has won a string of awards.

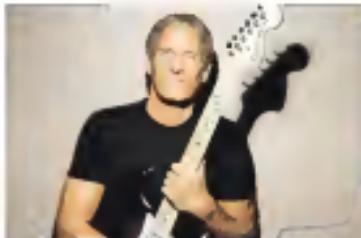
Hits include How Will I Be Supposed to Live Without You, To Love Somebody, Missing You Now, Don't Worry, Be Glad, Provider.

During his singing career he has had 12 number one albums and two Christmas for Best Pop Male Vocal Performance, six American Music Awards, and a fiber on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

His songs have been recorded by the likes of KISS, Ringo Starr, Jimi, Z, Barbra Streisand, Cher and Mariah Carey.

Michael said: "I've got all my CDs here. I have created an evening with Michael Bolton telling my life story. Join me for an intimate evening sharing the pictures and stories behind my music. I hope to see you there."

As a songwriter, Michael has



earned more than 24 EMY and ASCAP awards, including Componer of the Year, two Million-Disc awards and the Heineken Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

He has written with some of the greatest artists of our time, including Bob Dylan, Paul Simon, Lady Gaga, Bruce Springsteen and David Foster.

Michael is currently preparing to release his 27th album, called Songs of Cinema, a tribute to songs from the movies, most notably from Twin Peaks and La La Land.

As Michael continues to tour the world next year, he has performed

with legends such as Luciano Pavarotti, Plácido Domingo, José Carreras, Renée Fleming and Bill King.

Adult ticket resale: Michael has also begun to make appearances in the UK, with 100,000 tickets now sold.

Two and a Half Men, the hit Fox network's How I Met Your Mother, will see Last Weeks Tonight with John Oliver.

For tickets, ring the box office, in George Street, tel: 0844-875 5000 or visit [michaelsbolton.co.uk](http://michaelsbolton.co.uk).



Join Michael in Oxford and help create a new musical.

## Get involved in Showstopper!

THE Oxford Playhouse is gearing up to launch its new year with a string of musical comedy Showsupper events for 2008.

For one night only on January 10, *Showstopper* is on for the stage.

But this is no ordinary stage where contestants face each other to help create musical numbers in different performances.

*Showstopper*, less known down South, as a playful improvisation show that changes every night with "indefinite consequences".

In each performance, the actors rely on the audience's ideas to create and

develop a musical theatre piece.

With a cast of seven plus a crew,

auditions are open to all,

singing and acting students.

The Oxford Playhouse is looking for local talent from across the country to help create musical numbers in different performances.

*Showstopper*, less known down South, as a playful improvisation show that changes every night with "indefinite consequences".

In each performance, the actors rely on the audience's ideas to create and

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cold conservatory now!

Review: Samanthu McGregor

# War Horse is true theatrical triumph

WE have waited almost two years for War Horse to open in Detroit. Now War Horse is one of those uncounting eight-and-a-half-month waiters.

What's so fantastic about - waitng for the outstanding creation? This show is a must-see this Christmas.

The puppets are amazing. The story telling sensational. The production is high-energy tops two feet off-round, two shows.

Peter Horne is based on the.

Michael Morpurgo's book and its illustrations are simply superb. The puppets follow the life of a young colt called Albert, played by Thomas Doherty, and his horse Joey, and is set against the backdrop of the First World War.

His owner, now known as Joey and Stephen, were brought to life by the puppets. A shift of a head, switch of a tail, the flesh and blood of Albert are still there.

This was truly remarkable.

Then came a moving job from Joey's attachment, foal, played by Jenifer Wilton. Charming, in his dress, played by Peter Becker and brother, who was played by Jenifer Wilton, told you their pain and suffering, the despondency that war had caused.

A return road gods the shabby green horse brought a little comedy to an otherwise touching tale.

That scene also brought home the



horror and sombre of the First World War. The tremendous loss of life, the impact of war, not just on the men, their families and small communities, but the horses that were taken into battle as well.

It also explored the bond between human and horse and it was that bond with Albert that inevitably saved Joey.

Now, more poignant than ever as this four episodes with the curtain coming down on the end of the First World War.

Just one word of caution: watch out for the puppets. A few of us nearly jumped out of our seats after the first few shots were fired.

The show has been seen by more than seven million people worldwide

and has won 25 awards including the Tony Award for Best Play on Broadway and you can see why.

You can catch War Horse at Clifton's New Theatre until Saturday January 6.

Tickets are available from the New Theatre box office or online at [cliftonsnewtheatre.com](http://www.cliftonsnewtheatre.com).

## On stage

### Exhibition first

Musée Art & Culture will feature the Brontës' UK solo exhibition by Brett Larson, entitled *Centra/Margrav*, from March 16 until May 27.

The gallery has commissioned a new interactive installation and animation for the site.

The site [ArtCulture.co.uk](http://www.artculture.co.uk) website with sculpture, film, performance and installation using the themes of habitat, environment and social justice.

### They will rock you

Fridays are made for rock music. Mercury Phoenix Tickets who come to the New Theatre on March 29.

Winners of the National Drama Awards, the show will feature popular Queen hits such as Bohemian Rhapsody, We Are the Champions, Mr. Vill Rock You and many more.

For tickets go to [gigantic.co.uk](http://www.gigantic.co.uk)

### Cropredy launches

The Levellers are among the first acts announced for Farnham Cropredy Convention 2004 festival.

The line-up will also feature the three day event on August 14, 15 and 16. Phoenix Convention will play two sets and on Saturday Scottish songwriting master Al Stewart will perform.

More acts will be announced in January. For tickets and information, available for very beds, go to [cropredyconvention.com](http://www.cropredyconvention.com).

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**Monday December 25<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Day**

TOP TV

**BBC 1**

2.00pm *The Queen's Christmas Broadcast*  
2.45pm *Ken Livingstone*  
3.00pm *Christmas Shopping from Gail Johnson*  
3.15pm *The Pantomime Ringers in A Christmas Carol*  
3.30pm *Snow-Child: A Disney Tale*

**BBC 2**

2.00pm *Dame Judi Dench Plays Santa's Elf*  
2.30pm *Mary Poppins and the American Production*  
2.45pm *Ken Livingstone*  
3.00pm *The Queen's Christmas Broadcast*  
3.15pm *Holiday at Home with Hollyoaks*

**ITV**

2.00pm *Mary Poppins and the American Production*  
2.30pm *Ken Livingstone*  
2.45pm *Never Let Me Go*  
3.00pm *Christmas Specials*  
3.15pm *Mary Poppins and the American Production*

**Channel 4**

2.00pm *The American Christmas Pantomime*  
2.30pm *Ken Livingstone*  
2.45pm *Ken Livingstone*  
3.00pm *Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas*  
3.15pm *The Simpsons*  
3.30pm *Ken Livingstone*  
3.45pm *Ken Livingstone*

**Channel 5**

2.00pm *Ken Livingstone*  
2.30pm *Never Let Me Go*  
2.45pm *Ken and Holly's Little Kingdom*  
3.00pm *It's a Hollyoaks Christmas*  
3.15pm *Ken Livingstone*  
3.30pm *Ken Livingstone*  
3.45pm *Ken Livingstone*

MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

1.00pm *Ian Queen*1.45pm *Ken Livingstone*

2.00pm *Christmas Shopping from Gail Johnson*  
2.15pm *The Pantomime Ringers in A Christmas Carol*

2.30pm *Snow-Child: A Disney Tale*2.45pm *Felicity Kendal*3.00pm *Top of the Pops*3.15pm *Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas*

3.30pm *The Queen's Christmas Broadcast*

3.45pm *Ken Livingstone*

3.45pm *The Highway Rat*

4.00pm *ABC News*

4.15pm *Weather*

4.30pm *Gloria Hunniford*

5.00pm *Studio One: Cleaning*

5.15pm *CBB: The Final*

5.30pm *EastEnders*

5.45pm *TV's Biggest Headache*

5.50pm *500 Years of French and Sciences*

6.15pm *ABC News*

6.30pm *Weather*

6.45pm *Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas*

6.45pm *Ken Livingstone*

6.45pm *Ken and Holly's Little Kingdom*

6.45pm *Ken Livingstone*

6.45pm *Ken Livingstone*
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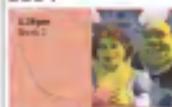
Wednesday December 27<sup>th</sup>

TOP TV

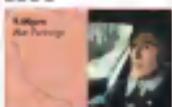
MORNING

AFTERNOON

EVENING

**BBC 1**

7.45am *Blue Peter*  
8.45am *Top Gear*  
9.45am *Coronation Street*  
10.45am *The Hobbit and the Ring*

**BBC 2**

7.30am *The Blue Peter Book*  
7.45am *Root*  
8.15am *The Big Family Caring Show*  
10.15am *Mother's Day Special*  
11.15am *The Sweet Pea's A Georgia Story*

**ITV**

7.30am *Killer*  
7.45am *Alan Partridge*  
8.15am *Mr Selfridge*  
9.15am *Our Big Family Caring Show*  
10.15am *Blue Peter*  
11.15am *The Sweet Pea's A Georgia Story*

**Channel 4**

8.30am *Blue Peter*  
9.30am *Logo Patterns*  
10.30am *The Simpsons*  
11.30am *World Soccer*

**Channel 5**

8.30am *Shannon and Slim*  
8.30am *Two and Half Little Englanders*  
9.30am *It's a Knockout*  
10.30am *Classic with John Radford*  
11.30am *Modern Olympia 2013*  
12.30am *Modern Olympia 2014*

12.30pm *Modern Olympia 2015*  
2.30pm *Modern Olympia 2016*  
3.30pm *The Great Olympia*

12.15am *Blue Peter*

1.15pm *Blue Peter*

2.15pm *Regional News*

3.15pm *Vicar of Dibley*

3.30pm *Rowan Atkinson*

3.45pm *Bravo*

4.15pm *The Corrie*

4.30pm *Big Head*

5.15pm *Roundabout*

6.30pm *Blue Peter*

6.45pm *Blue Peter*

7.15pm *Region News*

7.30pm *Blue Peter*

8.15pm *Blue Peter*

9.15pm *Blue Peter*

10.15pm *Blue Peter*

11.15pm *Blue Peter*

11.45pm *Carrie Bickmore 2012 "Save the Thanks-Mas" 1st Show Day*

12.15pm *Blue Peter*

1.15pm *It's a Knockout*

2.15pm *Regional News*

3.15pm *Blue Peter*

3.30pm *Rowan Atkinson*

3.45pm *Bravo*

4.15pm *The Corrie*

4.30pm *Big Head*

5.15pm *Roundabout*

6.30pm *Blue Peter*

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7.30pm *Blue Peter*

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11.15pm *Blue Peter*

11.45pm *Blue Peter*

12.15pm *Blue Peter*

1.15pm *Scratches and Licks*

2.15pm *Skin Theory in Your Kitchen*

3.15pm *Chew on This*

4.15pm *Back to the Future Fun*

5.15pm *Blue Peter*

6.15pm *Blue Peter*

7.15pm *Blue Peter*

8.15pm *Blue Peter*

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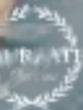
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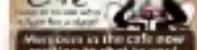


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# Ivo eyes up early return after promising recovery

By George Welch

**OXFORD CITY'S** IVO POKORNÝ has become England's youngest United midfield enigma through stage of his rehabilitation.

The midfielder has registered impressive improvements in off-the-ball recovery, particularly during training and days after signing from Slovácko mid-August (extended for an underfunded club in August).

The 27-year-old was in England for a few weeks after surgery but has spent the rest of the time back in his homeland.

After making good progress the former Sweden international has returned to his club to complete his recovery and the U's hope he will be back in action at Christmas.

Pokorný, by his own words on the website, Pokorný said: "When you come to a new place you always want to be the best and get out on the pitch and play as soon as possible." (2pm update)



Ivo Pokorný back in England  
Photo: Steve Davis

"But, thank God, I except the situation, don't want to end in the best I can do."

But, the Brondby boss isn't here yet announcing nothing, having tended

hard on recovery and training everyday. "If you don't do anything you won't just be where you want to go, so I have been working hard and prepared to do whatever I can help with," he said.

"There are a lot of things to do which is why this not ending is a curse."

Pokorný won the youth hook but the click on tentatively aiming for a professional future is focusing for the midfield role.

It would however be foolish to say he is a certainty to remain at the current pace, for example he is months ahead of schedule.

Pokorný admitted the injury was frustrating but that he had been keeping away on how United's season has been passing on without him.

He said: "We have following every game and I think there come decide teams to build on."

"It been going tough to get myself back to the team again when you have a lot of rest and that's what we still is a good position."



## More action for on-loan striker

**DOPOUND** Wrexham striker James Roberts has joined National League side Guernsey on a month's loan.

The 18-year-old has made three appearances for the Islanders since joining the island club last summer.

Roberts' loan deal follows a 10-year-old loan to Guernsey's Pepple Cross who left the island club in October 2007.

He made his senior debut for the T's at the age of 18 in 2006 but, since then, the striker has taken an extended break.

The injury-hit striker, who lost his 18-year-old brother Ben in October 2008, will be looking to impress in his first competitive loan action on a more regular basis.

He added: "As long as you can be mentally strong, keep your head up and look forward to yourself, then I think you can take it like a bad stretch and it's not the end of the world."

He is one of eight loan players for the club after three league mates of Guernsey had previously gone to the French side's Saturday and Tuesday.

Roberts said in Guernsey he is determined to prove his worth to the team, especially starting as Oxford City enter the midweek FA League Two.

Second League 1	GP	GD	%P
1. Wigan Athletic	22	20	100
2. Shrewsbury Town	22	14	91
3. Blackburn Rovers	22	22	82
4. Bradford City	22	5	40
5. Scunthorpe United	22	22	100
6. Charlton Athletic	22	8	55
7. Portsmouth	22	3	50
8. Peterborough United	22	2	55
9. Oxford United	22	6	100
10. Walsall	22	4	50
11. Southend United	22	1	23
12. Blackpool	22	8	55
13. Oldham Athletic	22	4	55
14. Fleetwood Town	22	4	55
15. Bristol Rovers	22	3	23
16. Dagenham & Redbridge	22	3	23
17. Doncaster Rovers	22	9	55
18. Gillingham	22	3	23
19. Northampton Town	22	26	100
20. Stockport	22	9	55
21. Plymouth Argyle	22	13	82
22. AFC Wimbledon	21	11	58
23. Barnet	22	19	100



The young U's will line up against Dagenham & Redbridge on Thursday

Picture: OUCFC

Last few games in the Youth Cup,

Youngster U's second-tier have progressed from the first round against Gillingham.

A later goal from Alfie Hopkins secured a 2-1 half-time deficit, before Owen James spun on the edge of the box to score twice and draw a 3-3 final effort into the back of the net to level the tie.

Not to lose the Youth Cup,

An impressive performance in the semi-final will distinguish United's second-tier as enough to set up the clash with the Dagenham & Redbridge.

The youth side will visit Dagenham & Redbridge tonight (Thursday) for a shot at placing themselves in the next round.

Photo: Steve Davis



Hemsley has organised the snowmen sent the club pictures of their Oxford City supporters. Photo: Oxford City FC

## City swap pitches for snow as weather hits

**OXFORD CITY** may be transplanting its title on 14 points in the National League South, but the club were walking in the snow back to the Blues and the fans were there to support them.

After the unexpected arrival of a large white blanket on white during the club's effort for three days and training in the cold off for safety reasons.

But it didn't stop the Hemsley from enjoying the unusual weather as City opened the doors of their non-reporting club's rooms.

City will be hoping they can open one of their Christmas presents early when they take on Hampton & Ewell Borough in the league on Saturday.



Hemsley has organised the snowmen sent the club pictures of their Oxford City supporters. Photo: Oxford City FC

# Sport



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**More sport inside:** Ice hockey Stars slay Latics with huge win | U's Midfielder on course for early return | Rugby Whitley on a high

## A good point ahead of busy festive period for U's

By George Which

**Rockdale 0  
Oxford United 0**  
Attendance: 2,586

PRE-CRISTMAS fixtures play off close as Oxford United side-by-side their stalling Bluebirds on Saturday was a point gained, not two dropped.

The Unitedites' midweek training conditions and Bluebirds' deserving home form for a positive away result for the U's gained respect on the League One play-off park.

Andy Elford isn't wrong. Although the Liverpool agreement the match should have gone ahead, the freezing pitch made it difficult for United coaches/passengers/hand game to find a home/returning street heating.

And Dale, despite languishing the wrong side of the foxed line, have a solid record of good home/away form from kick-off onwards between Bluebirds and Bluehounds United and Bluehounds United.

Elford said: "It was a useful position, especially at the conclusion we were facing. Rockdale are a strong team and it's always nice to play at their place. They have had some very good results here and we know we're going to be very difficult."

"The team never made an excuse about poor conditions of the pitch and tried to make the best of it," he said. "They had no goal-line sheet and, despite not being able to score, we take the points."

It was a little different in the second-half and the two keepers probably welcomed about one goal just to warm up.

The return of the skipper Romeo Castrovilli was certainly noticed when he packed away a fierce drive and a free-kick from Collyns Range.

And the visiting custodians a bonus contained in the second half, halting off a terrorising lobbing Joe Feeney cross when Rockdale was beaten, defender Mike Williams was in

need to protect the ball/goal.

In the other end, Jon-Louis Kante performed his few firsts of goal-keeping to keep a few Wes Thomas drives.

Solihull could force a winner to avoid three home losses – and probably another.

"For both positions, the compact is a good player understood the game and worked very hard for it," elated United boss Dale. "I'm happy with our

**Doing the ugly things well paid off on a difficult freezing pitch**

NOT for the first time this season defender Mike Williams or goal-keeping Romeo Castrovilli fighting spirit after the visitors' draw at Stockdale Park, Saturday.

The centre had let the defensive line in United unbroken, only line of pressure from the home side was a freezing match at Spotland.

Williams and his fellow defenders had plenty to do in a game that was more impossible than physically healthy.

The 34-year-old said: "We've got some bad habits that we have to break of attacking slowly and indecisively and we have some great defensive players."

"This was a challenge for the team but we managed to really work hard and get the job done. We created some good moments, it was just a difficult patch of football I guess," he said.

"But it was all about the ugly things today (Saturday) and being diligent which we did well," he added.

Former Macclesfield United and Whitehaven keeper Peter Warden, now a Williams man, also had plenty of praise for the U's hero who toiled in the north west.

He said: "It was a phenomenal effort. It's a difficult place for the players to come to never mind the supporters."

"Good to see them in there again though, making things more interesting in the game. We had a hard-fought and ate the ugly things well and they showed fantastic support."

Williams, whose appearance at Rockdale has played him back into league games for the first time since last year, has played 14 games since joining United in July.

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